WHEREAS, Laura Ingalls Wilder was born on February 7, 1867, and lived among us for many years; and,

WHEREAS, Laura Ingalls Wilder moved west into Dakota to experience in the first year the hard winter of 1880-81 in the tiny community of scarcely one hundred persons "By The Shores of Silver Lake", later to become known as DeSmet, South Dakota, and helped her Pa put up the first building on that townsite; and,

WHEREAS, Laura Ingalls Wilder lived in DeSmet, "The Little Town on the Prairie" and married Almanzo of "Farmer Boy" just as she told in "Those Happy Golden Years" on August 25, 1885; and,

WHEREAS, Laura Ingalls Wilder presents, in her books, an accurate picture of early life in what is now South Dakota, with extraordinary vividness, simplicity and sensitivity; and,

WHEREAS, Her great gifts as a person and writer--honesty, clear vision, understanding of people and the ability to put down what she sees and imagines in simple, interesting and effective prose--have enabled her to draw out of a covered wagon girlhood a lasting record of a significant phase in American social history; and,

WHEREAS, The authentic background, sensitive characterization, fine integrity, spirit and sturdy independence made her books an invaluable addition to our list of genuinely American stories that continue to have special significance for us today:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD F. KNEIP, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim Saturday, February 7, 1976, as

LAURA INGALLS WILDER DAY

in South Dakota, in honor of this 109th anniversary of her birth, and ask all citizens of this State to pause to take note of the great contribution of Laura Ingalls Wilder to the young and young at heart across the nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this 23rd day of January, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-Six

R F. Kneip

RICHARD F. KNEIP, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Lorna B. Herseth

LORNA B. HERSETH, SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA - BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION - OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY
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